



5-Year Plan (2009 to 2013)

North Yakima Conservation District

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Organization of the North Yakima Conservation District

The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) is dedicated to maintaining North Yakima County's renewable natural resources. The District is composed of landowners, land occupiers, and concerned citizens who serve on NYCD's Board of Supervisors as volunteers. NYCD is bordered by the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the west and the Columbia River to the east with the Yakima County line and Ahtanum Ridge forming the northern and southern boundaries respectfully. The NYCD is a political subdivision of Washington State government organized under "Conservation District Law", RCW Title 89, Chapter 89.08.

Function of the North Yakima Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation and implementation of soil, water and related natural resource programs.

We Serve & Why

We serve: landowners, land users, land occupiers, the local community, stakeholders, natural resource users, governmental entities and interest groups within NYCD.

Why do we serve: to promote and maintain best use(s) of natural resources; to achieve good stewardship of natural resources; to enhance, sustain and protect natural resources; to educate those we serve; and because NYCD willingly implements RCW 89.08.

Mission Statement of the North Yakima Conservation District

The mission of the North Yakima Conservation District, as a non-regulatory entity, is to make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources within our District.

Vision of the North Yakima Conservation District

The vision of the North Yakima Conservation District is to sustain the economic viability and culture of those who use and enjoy the natural resources within the North Yakima Conservation District.

Values of the North Yakima Conservation District

The NYCD stands for: providing technical and financial opportunities, promoting harmony, providing educational resources, operating under a voluntary/grass roots ideal, implementation of resource conservation, protection and enhancement, striving for the highest and best natural resource use, delivering resource conservation in all its forms, natural resource sustainability, and honesty.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

Natural Resource concerns in priority order:

- 1. Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning:** Complete by 2009, plan(s) for land uses that strive to maintain agricultural use.
Strategy: Preserve private property ownership by working with State, federal, non-governmental organizations through Resolution, Memorandum of Agreement or otherwise, to promote alternatives to "acquisition" programs. Action: Develop MOA/MOU with these entities and move forward a resolution through WACD to achieve strategy.
Strategy: Work with local jurisdictions to establish programs and use existing programs that assist landowners in preserving economic viability and to keep private working lands intact through voluntary means. Action: As a priority, establish a direct line of communication with Yakima County

Commissioners, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, other entities and their staff as appropriate.

Strategy: Use voluntary incentives/education to reach this natural resource priority goal. Action: Seek, develop and evaluate programs that provide incentives, for example conservation easements and development rights acquisition; for landowners to maintain agricultural uses; implement appropriate programs to maintain agricultural uses.

2. Water Resources: (combined water quantity and water quality) Assist all affected landowners with water issues within NYCD, focusing on NYCD's critical geographic priority areas*.

By 2010 the Cowiche Watershed will yield enough water for legal uses and fish and wildlife needs.

Strategy: By 2010 deliver water to the Cowiche Creek Water User Association (CCWUA) via the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (YTID). Action: Implement the CCWUA and Cowychee Ditch Co. projects.

Strategy: Provide a metering program for all legal water uses within NYCD. Action: Support landowners in meeting water measurement compliance with WAC 173-173.

By 2011 identify Water Quality issues that will lead to implementation of corrective actions.

Strategy: Assist Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) in the development and implementation of the Naches River Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process and the Local Tributaries Fecal TMDL process. Action: Implement water quality improvement programs identified by the TMDL. In areas where water quality exceeds limits encourage DOE to be specific (i.e. DNA) in identifying fecal sources.

Strategy: Provide education to the public/landowners on issues related to water quality (causes, solutions, incentives etc...). Action: Use the current Cowiche Creek Tributary Team as a forum to share information and seek input, and utilize NYCD newsletter and education program.

3. Fish and Wildlife: By 2013 assist all affected landowners with compliance issues related to the Endangered Species Act and State requirements regarding fish species on privately held lands within NYCD's Critical Geographic Priority Areas.

Strategy: Provide technical assistance and financial incentives to provide for screened diversions, removal of barriers and improve in stream and riparian habitats. Action: Fully implement Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, implement appropriate elements of the Yakima Sub-Basin Plan and Yakima Sub-Basin Salmon Recovery Plan, develop incentive programs, and develop technical assistance programs.

4. Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)/Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO): By 2013 assist affected landowners within NYCD's Critical Geographic Priority Areas in becoming compliant with AFO/CAFO regulations.

Strategy: Educate affected landowners about regulations and responsibilities. Action: Staff will attend training sessions, conduct needs assessment, utilize district outreach programs and keep the NYCD Board informed.

Strategy: Provide and /or establish technical and financial assistance to affected landowners.

Action: Develop technical and financial assistance programs and fully implement applicable grant programs.

5. Forestry: By 2011 develop a program to assist private forestry landowners.

Strategy: Work with partner agencies and entities to develop Fire Wise programs. Action: Continue to apply for and sponsor applications for funding to support Fire Wise programs.

6. Noxious Weeds and Pests: (focus areas: Irrigated cropland, rangeland): By 2011 develop an integrated pest management program.

Strategy: Work with the Yakima County Noxious Weed Board. Action: Mutually develop programs that identify areas of infestation and methods of control for implementation at the request of the landowner.

Strategy: Work with appropriate entities such as WSU, WSDA, USDA and Horticultural Associations; to address fruit pest issues. Action: Develop programs for Education, Outreach, and Implementation.

7. **Air Quality**: Continue strategy/action development and pursue related technical/financial programs.

***Critical Geographic Priority Areas: (maps attached)**

Cowiche, Ahtanum, Naches/Tieton, Wenas, Moxee, and Wide Hollow Watersheds.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

Information/Education: By 2013 increase the knowledge level of all landowners listed on NYCD's assessment role.

Strategy: Maintain NYCD's newsletters and website. Action: Seek funding to establish effective strategy, continue to develop the mailing list for NYCD's newsletter, produce a semi-annual newsletter, expand website.

Strategy: Establish relationships with interested organizations and entities (i.e. WDFW, Master Gardeners, school districts, Farm Bureau, Cattleman's Association, RC&D etc...) to actively share goals and mission statements to find common ground to support each other. Action: Board Members and staff need to familiarize themselves with the natural resource issues and priorities of those organizations and entities. In addition Supervisors and staff need to actively work with these entities and organizations to communicate these priorities.

Strategy: Continue to promote, sponsor, and expand educational programs such as Water on Wheels. Action: Contract with Franklin CD for K-12 educational services.

District Operations Priorities and Goals:

District Operations: Maintain, expand and provide effective Natural Resource Conservation programs in an efficient, legal and fiscally responsible manner.

Strategy: NYCD operations become financially independent. Action: Identify financial needs of the NYCD and develop a financial plan for NYCD.

Strategy: Develop and maintain funding sources and revenue streams. Action: Participate in those activities that create and/or maintain funding sources (legislative action(s), WACD committee participation, etc...). Strategy: Utilize the Plant Material Facility to meet the Annual Plan and 5-year Plan of the District. Action: The PMF Committee will seek out all opportunities to utilize the PMF.

Strategy: NYCD assessment. Action: Develop an appropriate annual assessment to meet the Annual and 5-year Plan of the District.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the North Yakima Conservation District

1. State budget issues, decreased funding, states deficit
2. Agricultural vs. urban conflicts, increased pressure from development, restrictions, etc...
3. Fish and stream driven projects vs. resource need based projects
4. Increase need to be creative in developing funding sources for the District to operate
5. Water Quality mandates
6. Endangered Species Act issues
7. New water quality issues, AFO/CAFO, storm water management, etc...
8. Ability of NYCD to maintain a quality of service to it's customers
9. A broader impact from stakeholder groups with dissimilar or conflicting goals and strategies
10. Diminishing District involvement in federal programs (implementation)
11. Increased negative focus towards agricultural related issues
12. Districts' increased recognition in ability to address resource issues
13. Disconnection with partners in technical issues

14. Spending a disproportionate amount of time looking for funds rather than implementing projects
 15. Water resource needs vs. water supply
 16. Increasing regulatory issues (Shoreline Management, Critical Areas, etc...)
 17. Increasing need for integrated pest management.
 18. Loss of private property to public lands and non-profit organizations
 19. Increased demand on natural resources
 20. Media messaging toward preservation rather than conservation (non-use vs. wise use)
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Strategies to Address Trends

Local, State and Federal funding issues: Participate in legislative activities that provide conservation related funding.

Water Resource and Water Quality related issues including ESA, Irrigation, and Municipal uses: Support water storage issues, assist landowners in meeting W/Q criteria and ESA requirements.

Customer Service issues: increase information and education outreach while maintaining a strong District implementation program(s).

Staffing Needs

In order to realize this 5-year plan NYCD proposes the following staffing needs:

- District Manager
 - Financial Manager
 - Information and Education Coordinator
 - Resource Biologist
 - Information/Technology/GIS technician
 - Plant Material Facility technician
 - Ag Preservation Specialist
 - Reception/Secretary
 - Resource Planners (4)
 - Engineer
 - Work Crew (2, 6 member crews)
 - Bookkeeper
 - Attorney(legal representation)
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Annual Budget Needs

In order to realize this 5-year plan NYCD proposes the following Zero Based annual budget (2009 dollars):

- Salary - \$1,303,400
- District equipment - \$25,000
- Office Supplies - \$10,000
- Rent/Utilities - \$75,000
- Vehicle - \$125,000
- Programs/Cost Share - \$10,000,000
- Training - \$50,000
- Other - \$25,000
- 5% of above - \$269,000

Total Annual Budget = \$12,194,070.00

Key Decision Makers

- Elected officials (federal, State and local)
 - Conservation Commission Members and Staff
 - Washington Association of Conservation Districts and WACD Executive Director
 - Partner Entities (Natural Resource Conservation Service, Resource Conservation & Development Council, Department of Ecology, Bureau of Reclamation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, WSU Extension, etc...)
 - Stakeholder Groups (Washington State Cattleman's Associations, Hop Growers of Washington, Farm Bureau, Irrigation Districts, Dairy Federation, etc...)
 - Environmental Groups (Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, etc...)
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Priority Actions – 12 Months (all actions are identified in NYCD's Annual Plan)

Actions	Begin Date	End Date
Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning: Water Resources: Fish and Wildlife: AFO/CAFO: Forestry: Noxious Weeds and Pests: (focus areas: Irrigated Cropland and rangeland) Information/Education: District Operations:	See Annual Plan For dates	

NYCD Watershed Priorities

List of resource concerns for the North Yakima Conservation District (In the following section, “use” means wise use/sustainable use, “protection” means respecting landowner needs with wise use, “enhancement” means meeting landowner needs with best management practices)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Improper land use practices (erosion related, public and private ownership, etc...) | 15. Riparian habitat use/protection/enhancement |
| 2. Changing plant, grass and forest cover | 16. In stream habitat use/protection/enhancement |
| 3. Soil condition | 17. Upland habitat(s) use /protection/enhancement |
| 4. Wind erosion | 18. Open space area(s) use/protection/enhancement |
| 5. Air quality | 19. Wildlife |
| 6. Water erosion | 20. Native plants |
| 7. Water quality | 21. Resident and salmonid fisheries |
| 8. Agricultural land use/protection/enhancement | 22. Water quantity |
| 9. Development land use/protection/enhancement | 23. Noxious Weeds |
| 10. Forest land use/protection/enhancement | 24. Reintroduction of native or introduction of non-native species (plant and animal) |
| 11. Flood plain use/protection/enhancement | |
| 12. Rangeland use/protection/enhancement | |
| 13. Storm water (quality) | |
| 14. Flood water (quantity) | |

Ahtanum Creek

1. 22 & 7
2. 8,9,10,11,12,23
3. 21,19 &24

Black Rock

1. 12 & 8
2. 4
3. 19

Cold Creek

1. 12
2. 19
3. 13

Cowiche Creek

1. 8 & 12, 23
2. 22 & 7
3. 1
4. 21,19, &24
5. 9

Moxee

1. 8,9 and 12
2. 5, 4, and 1
3. 7
4. 14, 15 and 16

Naches and Tieton

1. 14, 11, 9 and 15
2. 8 & 10, 23
3. 7 & 22
4. 19, 21,& 24

Selah

1. 9, 8 and 1
2. 7
3. 22
4. 21

Selah Creek

1. 1 & 9
2. 12
3. 20

Wenas Creek

1. 22, 7 and 15
2. 12, 1,2 & 24
3. 8,9, 10 and 1

Wide Hollow Creek

1. 9 & 1
2. 15, 14 and 20
3. 7 & 22
4. 21

Yakima River Urban

1. 1 & 2
2. 7 & 22
3. 11 & 14
4. 5



North Yakima Conservation District Board
(left to right) Bill Gillespie, Frank Hendrix, Gail Thornton, Dustin Melius and Diana Hillis.

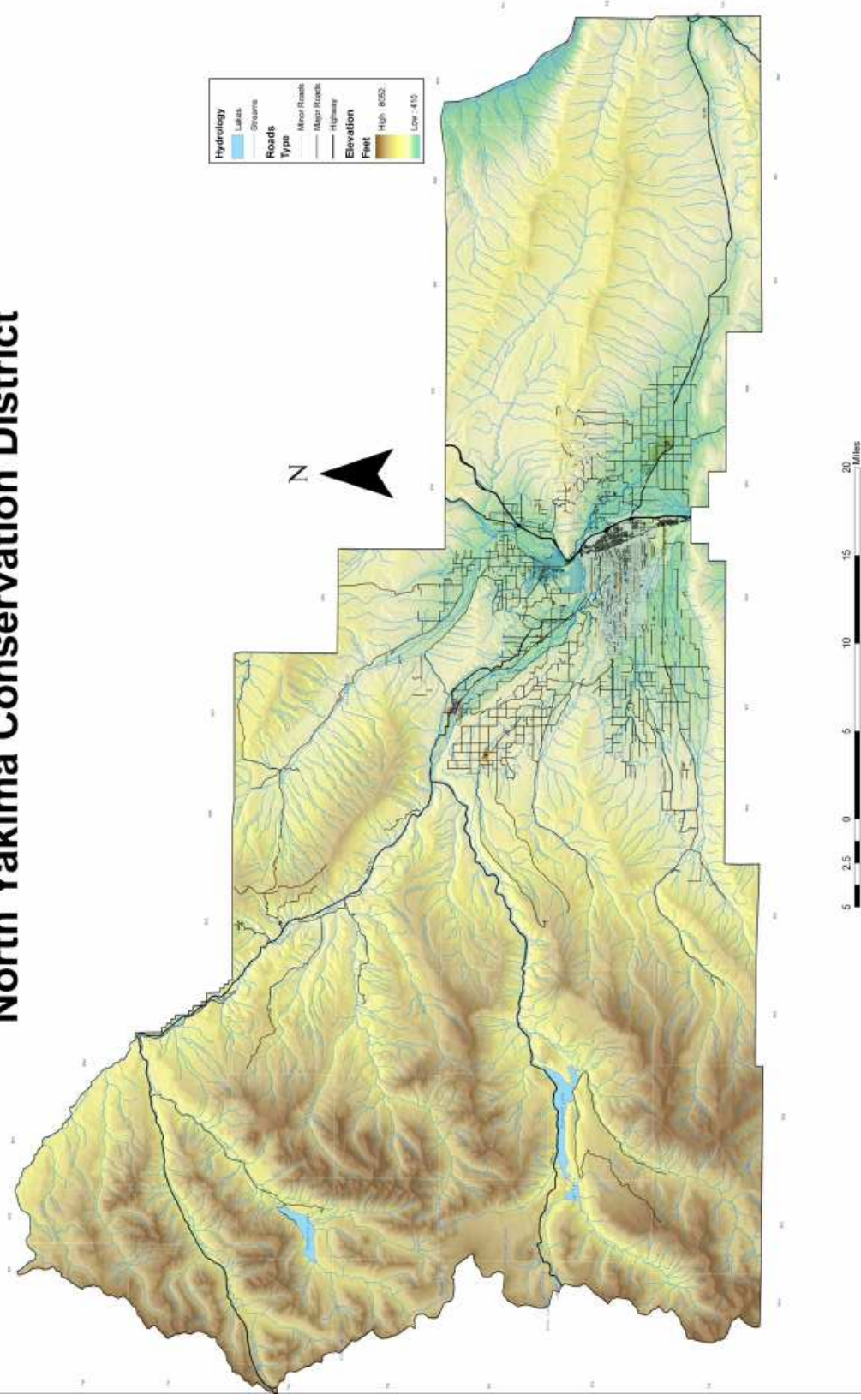


North Yakima Conservation District Staff (left to right) Brian Schmidt, Michael Tobin, Jackie Whitnall, Jeremy Lieb and Justin Bader.

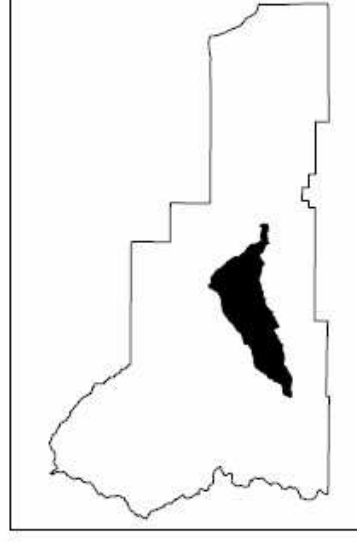
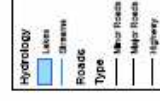
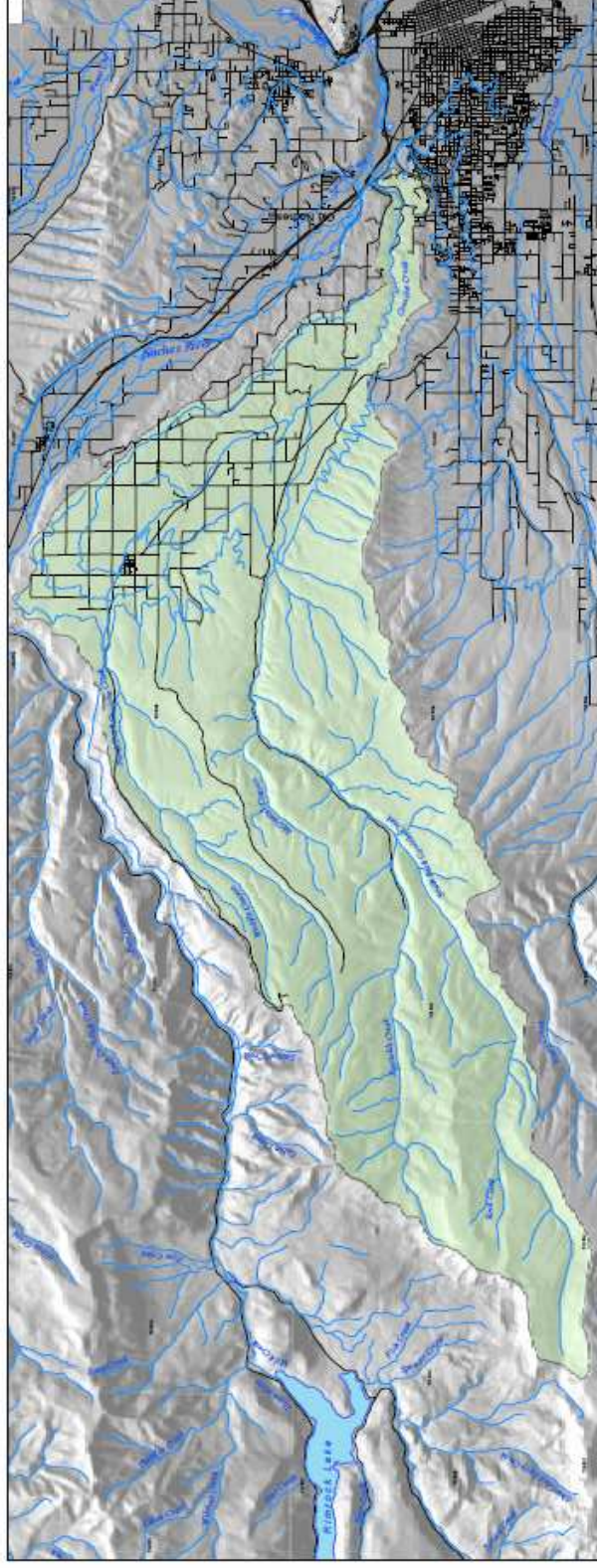
**Washington Conservation Districts assisting land
Managers with their conservation choices**



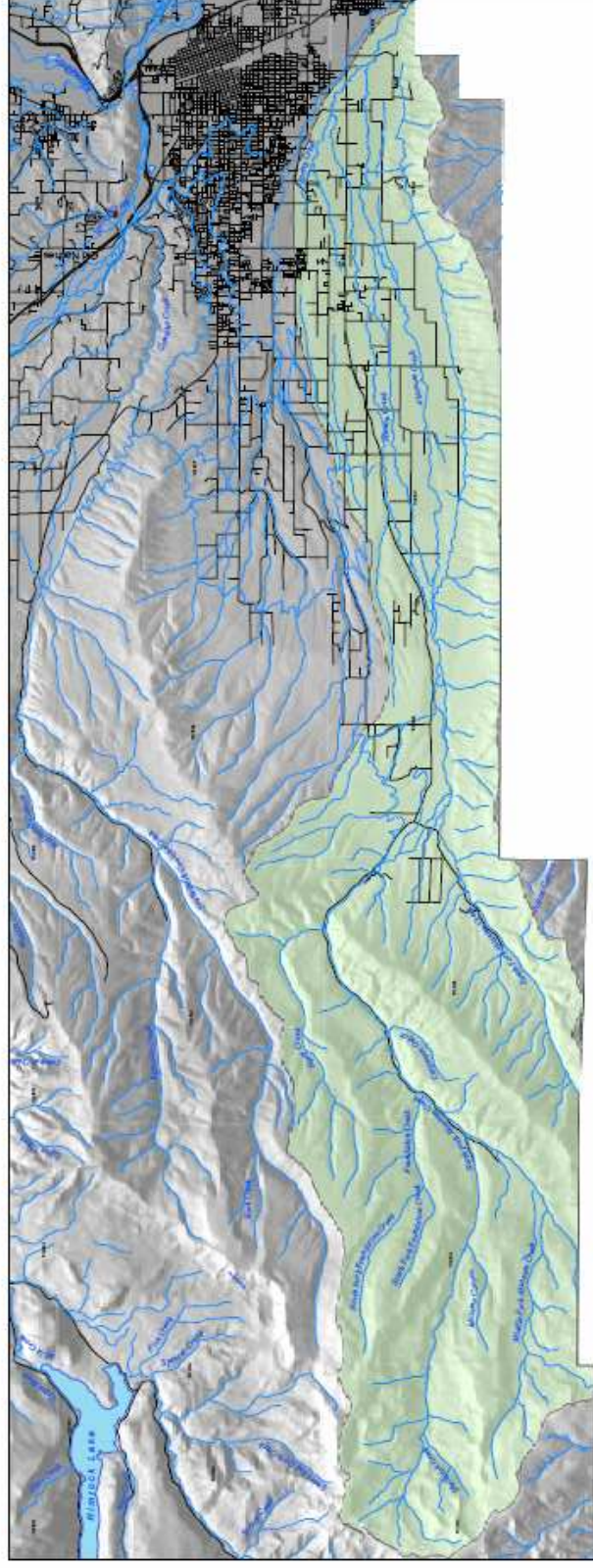
North Yakima Conservation District



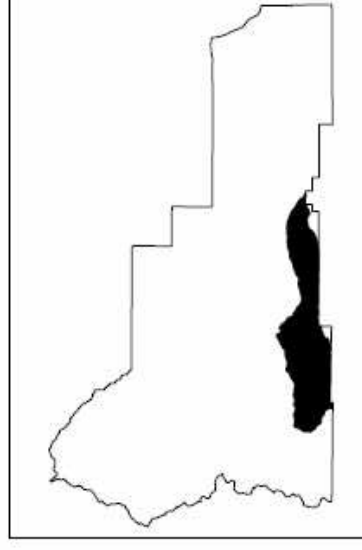
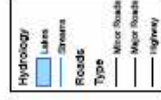
North Yakima Conservation District: Cowiche Creek Watershed



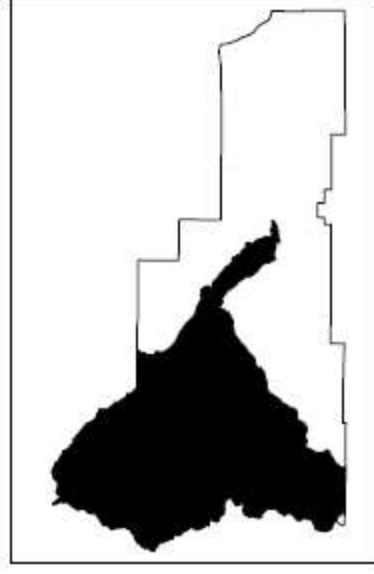
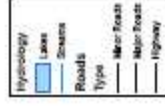
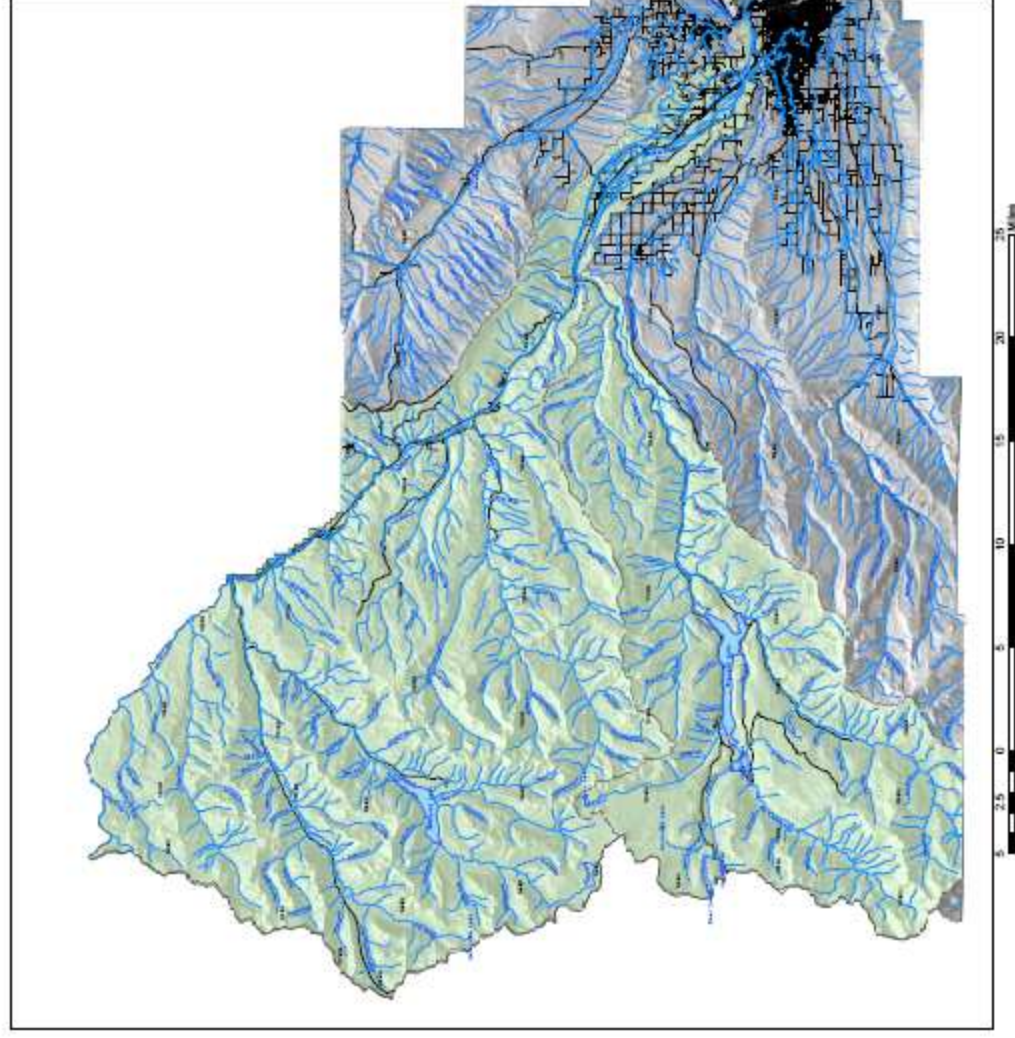
North Yakima Conservation District: Ahtanum Creek Watershed



1 0.5 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



North Yakima Conservation District: Naches/Tieton Watershed



North Yakima Conservation District: Wide Hollow Creek Watershed

